

## 5. SUMMARY OF FORECAST VERIFICATION

### 5.1 ANNUAL FORECAST VERIFICATION

Verification of warning positions and intensities at initial, 24-, 48- and 72-hour forecast periods was made against the final best track. The (scalar) track forecast, along-track and cross-track errors (illustrated in Figure 5-1) were calculated for each verifying JTWC forecast. These data, in addition to a detailed summary for each tropical cyclone, is included as Chapter 6 (formerly Annex A). This section summarizes verification data for 1992 and contrasts it with annual verification statistics from previous years.

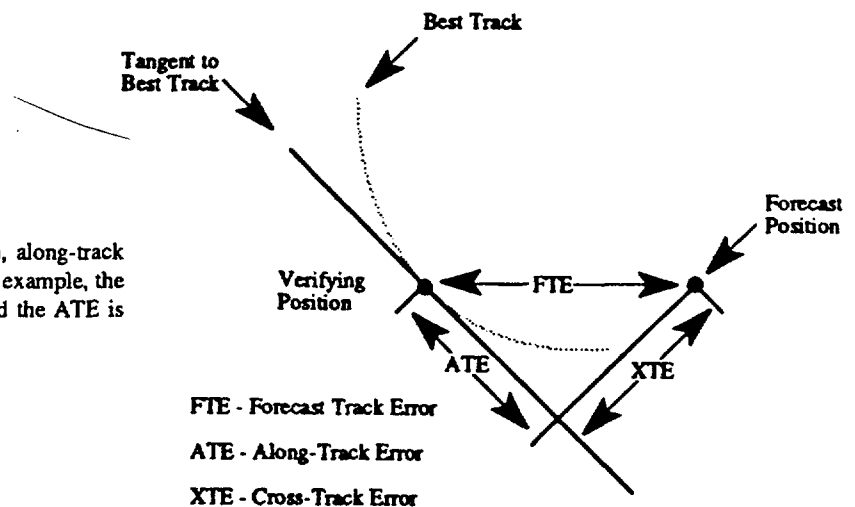
**5.1.1 NORTH WEST PACIFIC OCEAN** — The frequency distributions of errors for initial warning positions and 12-, 24-, 36-, 48- and 72-hour forecasts are presented in Figures 5-2a through 5-2f, respectively. Table 5-1 includes mean track, along-track and cross-track errors for 1978-1992. Figure 5-3 shows mean track errors and a 5-year moving average of track errors at 24-, 48- and 72-hours for the past 23 years. Table 5-2 lists annual mean track errors from 1959, when the JTWC was founded, until

the present. Figure 5-4 illustrates JTWC intensity forecast errors at 24-, 48- and 72-hours for the past 22 years.

**5.1.2 NORTH INDIAN OCEAN** — The frequency distributions of errors for warning positions and 12-, 24-, 36-, 48- and 72-hour forecasts are presented in Figures 5-5a through 5-5f, respectively. Table 5-3 includes mean track, along-track and cross-track errors for 1978-1992. Figure 5-6 shows mean track errors and a 5-year moving average of track errors at 24-, 48- and 72-hours for the 21 years that the JTWC has issued warnings in the region.

**5.1.3 SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS** — The frequency distributions of errors for warning positions and 24- and 48-hour forecasts are presented in Figures 5-7A through 5-7C, respectively. Table 5-4 includes mean track, along-track and cross-track errors for 1981-1992. Figure 5-8 shows mean track errors and a 5-year moving average of track errors at 24- and 48-hours for the 12 years that the JTWC has issued warnings in the region.

Figure 5-1. Definition of cross-track error (XTE), along-track error (ATE) and forecast track error (FTE). In this example, the XTE is positive (to the right of the best track) and the ATE is negative (behind or slower than the best track).



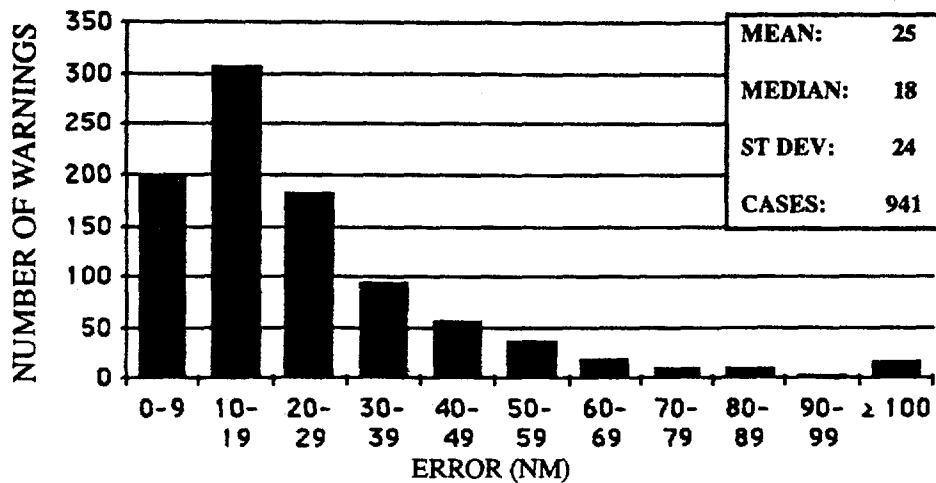


Figure 5-2a. Frequency distribution of initial warning position errors (10 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 249 nm, occurred on Typhoon Ward (22W).

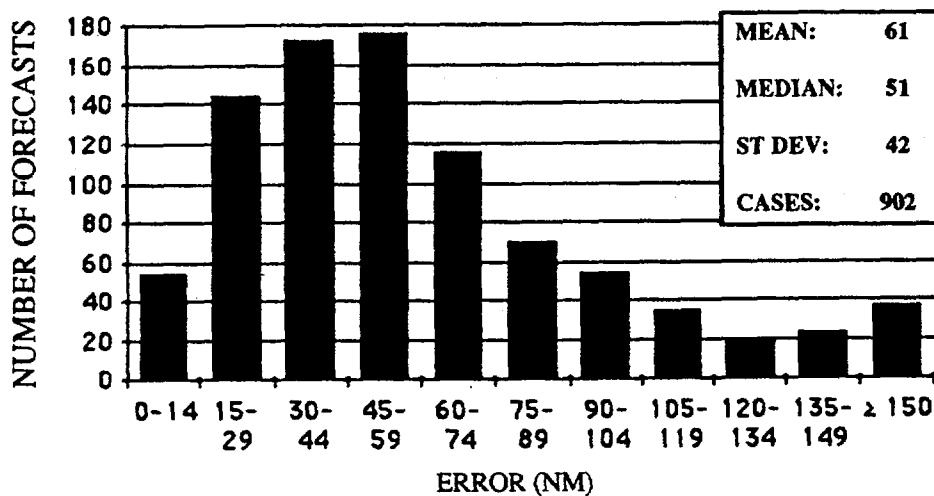


Figure 5-2b. Frequency distribution of 12-hour forecast errors (15 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 307 nm, occurred on Typhoon Ward (22W).

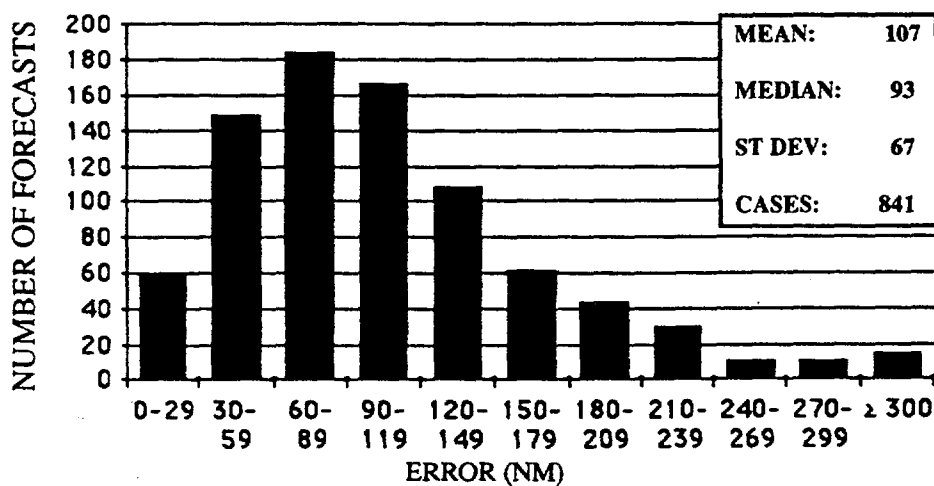


Figure 5-2c. Frequency distribution of 24-hour forecast errors (30 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 442 nm, occurred on Typhoon Hunt (32W).

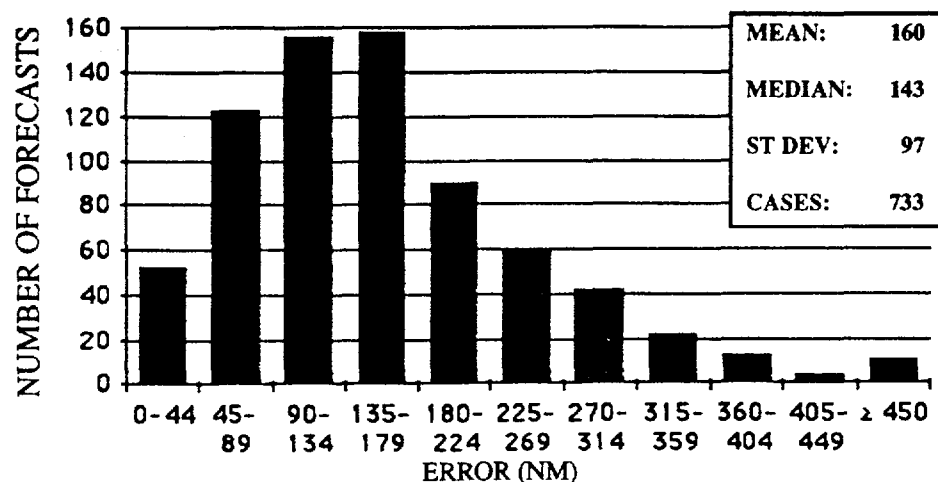


Figure 5-2d. Frequency distribution of 36-hour forecast errors (45 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 707 nm, occurred on Typhoon Hunt (32W).

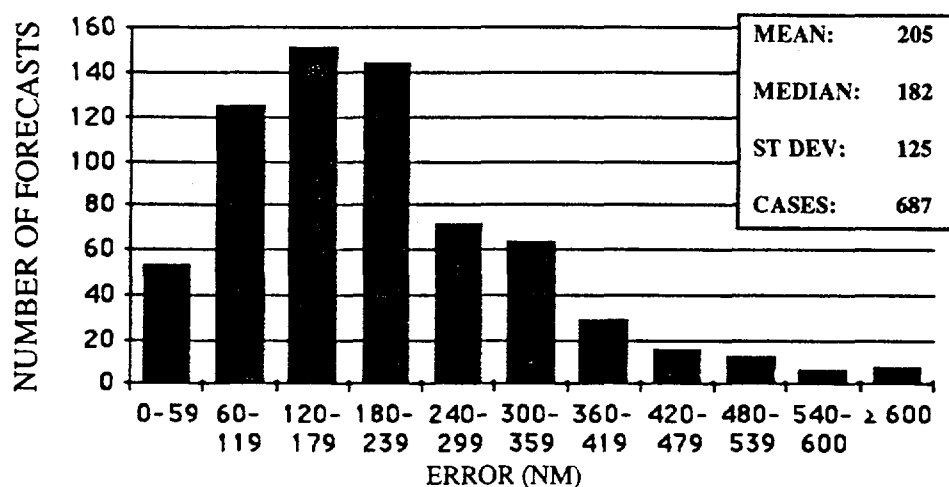


Figure 5-2e. Frequency distribution of 48-hour forecast errors (60 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 714 nm, occurred on Typhoon Colleen (26W).

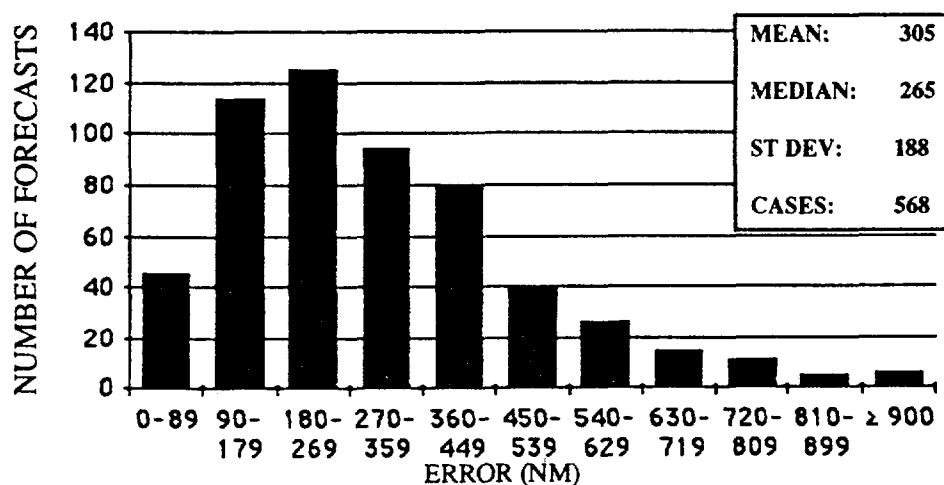


Figure 5-2f. Frequency distribution of 72-hour forecast errors (90 nm increments) for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 1014 nm, occurred on Typhoon Colleen (26W).

TABLE 5-1. INITIAL WARNING POSITION AND FORECAST ERRORS (NM) FOR THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC 1978-1992.

| YEAR              | NUMBER OF INITIAL<br>WARNINGS POSITION |    | 24-HOUR   |       |       |       | 48-HOUR   |       |       |       | 72-HOUR   |       |       |       |
|-------------------|--|----|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   |  |    | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS |
| 1978              | 696                                    | 21 | 556       | 126   | 87    | 71    | 420       | 274   | 194   | 151   | 295       | 411   | 296   | 218   |
| 1979              | 695                                    | 25 | 589       | 125   | 81    | 76    | 469       | 227   | 146   | 138   | 366       | 316   | 214   | 182   |
| 1980              | 590                                    | 28 | 491       | 127   | 86    | 76    | 369       | 244   | 165   | 147   | 267       | 391   | 266   | 230   |
| 1981              | 584                                    | 25 | 466       | 124   | 80    | 77    | 348       | 221   | 146   | 131   | 246       | 334   | 206   | 219   |
| 1982              | 786                                    | 19 | 666       | 113   | 74    | 70    | 532       | 238   | 162   | 142   | 425       | 342   | 223   | 211   |
| 1983              | 445                                    | 16 | 342       | 117   | 76    | 73    | 253       | 260   | 169   | 164   | 184       | 407   | 259   | 263   |
| 1984              | 611                                    | 22 | 492       | 117   | 84    | 64    | 378       | 232   | 163   | 131   | 286       | 363   | 238   | 216   |
| 1985              | 592                                    | 18 | 477       | 117   | 80    | 68    | 336       | 231   | 153   | 138   | 241       | 367   | 230   | 227   |
| 1986              | 743                                    | 21 | 645       | 126   | 85    | 70    | 535       | 261   | 183   | 151   | 412       | 394   | 276   | 227   |
| 1987              | 657                                    | 18 | 563       | 107   | 71    | 64    | 465       | 204   | 134   | 127   | 389       | 303   | 198   | 186   |
| 1988              | 465                                    | 23 | 373       | 114   | 85    | 58    | 262       | 216   | 170   | 103   | 183       | 315   | 244   | 159   |
| 1989              | 710                                    | 20 | 625       | 120   | 83    | 69    | 481       | 231   | 162   | 127   | 363       | 350   | 265   | 177   |
| 1990              | 794                                    | 21 | 658       | 120   | 81    | 70    | 404       | 237   | 162   | 138   | 305       | 355   | 242   | 211   |
| 1991              | 835                                    | 22 | 733       | 96    | 69    | 53    | 599       | 185   | 137   | 97    | 484       | 287   | 229   | 146   |
| 1992              | 941                                    | 25 | 841       | 107   | 77    | 59    | 687       | 205   | 143   | 116   | 568       | 305   | 210   | 172   |
| AVERAGE<br>78-92: | 676                                    | 22 | 568       | 116   | 79    | 67    | 436       | 229   | 158   | 131   | 334       | 343   | 237   | 198   |

NOTE: Cross-track and along-track errors were adopted by the JTWC in 1986. Right-angle errors (used prior to 1986) were recomputed as cross-track and along-track errors after the fact to extend the data base. See Figure 5-1 for the definitions of cross-track and along-track errors.

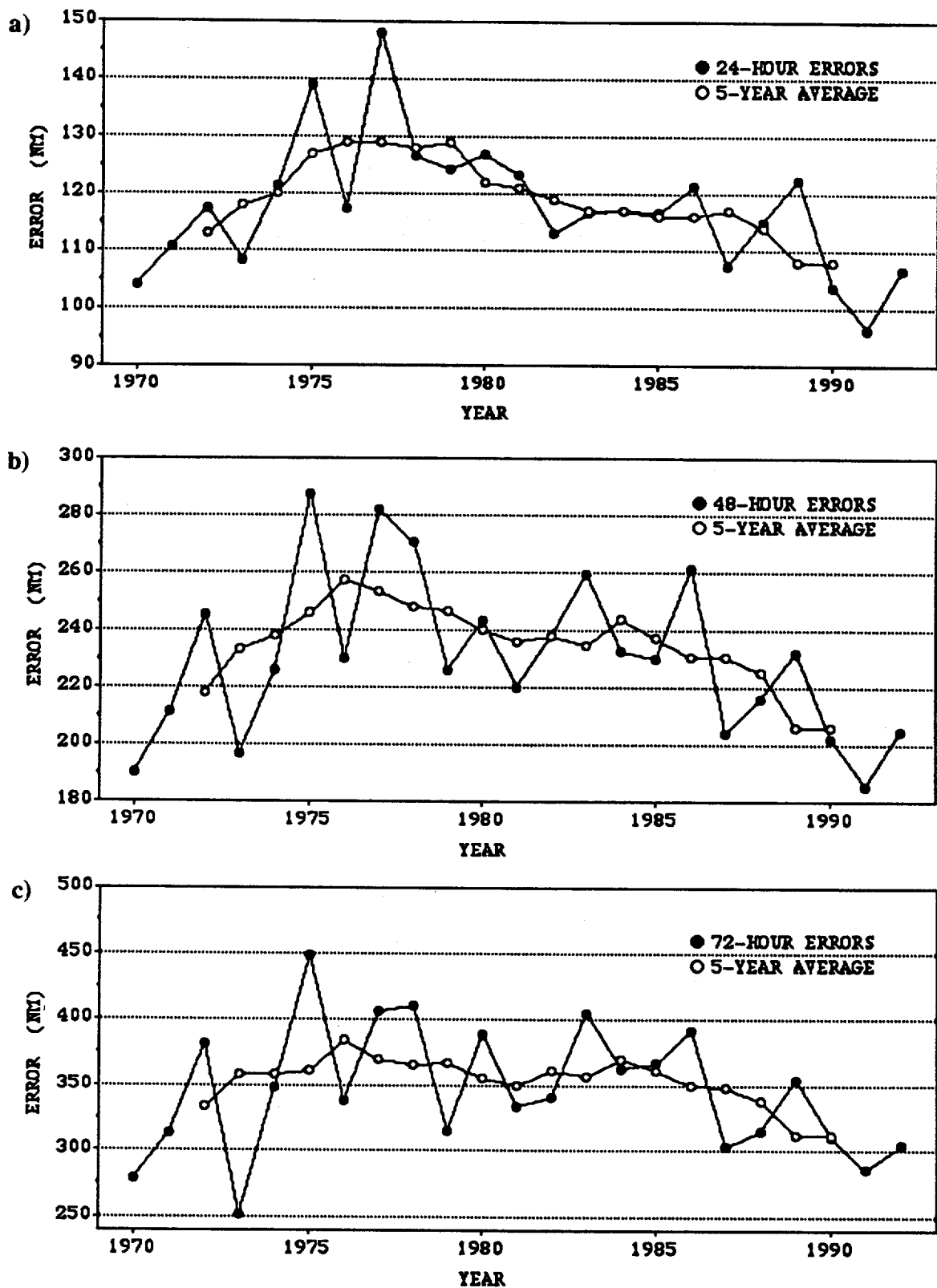


Figure 5-3. Mean track forecast error (nm) and 5-year running mean for a) 24 hours, b) 48 hours and c) 72 hours for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992.

TABLE 5-2 MEAN FORECAST ERRORS (NM) WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC

| YEAR | 24-HOUR |           | 48-HOUR |           | 72-HOUR |           |
|------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|      | ALL     | TYPHOONS* | ALL     | TYPHOONS* | ALL     | TYPHOONS* |
| 1959 |         | 117**     |         | 267**     |         |           |
| 1960 |         | 177**     |         | 354**     |         |           |
| 1961 |         | 136       |         | 274       |         |           |
| 1962 |         | 144       |         | 287       |         | 476       |
| 1963 |         | 127       |         | 246       |         | 374       |
| 1964 |         | 133       |         | 284       |         | 429       |
| 1965 |         | 151       |         | 303       |         | 418       |
| 1966 |         | 136       |         | 280       |         | 432       |
| 1967 |         | 125       |         | 276       |         | 414       |
| 1968 |         | 105       |         | 229       |         | 337       |
| 1969 |         | 111       |         | 237       |         | 349       |
| 1970 | 104     | 98        | 190     | 181       | 279     | 272       |
| 1971 | 111     | 99        | 212     | 203       | 317     | 308       |
| 1972 | 117     | 116       | 245     | 245       | 381     | 382       |
| 1973 | 108     | 102       | 197     | 193       | 253     | 245       |
| 1974 | 120     | 114       | 226     | 218       | 348     | 357       |
| 1975 | 138     | 129       | 288     | 279       | 450     | 442       |
| 1976 | 117     | 117       | 230     | 232       | 338     | 336       |
| 1977 | 148     | 140       | 283     | 266       | 407     | 390       |
| 1978 | 127     | 120       | 271     | 241       | 410     | 459       |
| 1979 | 124     | 113       | 226     | 219       | 316     | 319       |
| 1980 | 126     | 116       | 243     | 221       | 389     | 362       |
| 1981 | 123     | 117       | 220     | 215       | 334     | 342       |
| 1982 | 113     | 114       | 237     | 229       | 341     | 337       |
| 1983 | 117     | 110       | 259     | 247       | 405     | 384       |
| 1984 | 117     | 110       | 233     | 228       | 363     | 361       |
| 1985 | 117     | 112       | 231     | 228       | 367     | 355       |
| 1986 | 121     | 117       | 261     | 261       | 394     | 403       |
| 1987 | 107     | 101       | 204     | 211       | 303     | 318       |
| 1988 | 114     | 107       | 216     | 222       | 315     | 327       |
| 1989 | 120     | 107       | 231     | 214       | 350     | 325       |
| 1990 | 103     | 98        | 203     | 191       | 310     | 299       |
| 1991 | 96      | 93        | 185     | 187       | 286     | 298       |
| 1992 | 107     | 97        | 205     | 194       | 305     | 295       |

\* Forecasts were verified when the tropical cyclone intensities were at least 35 kt (18 m/sec).

\*\* Forecast positions north of 35° north latitude were not verified.

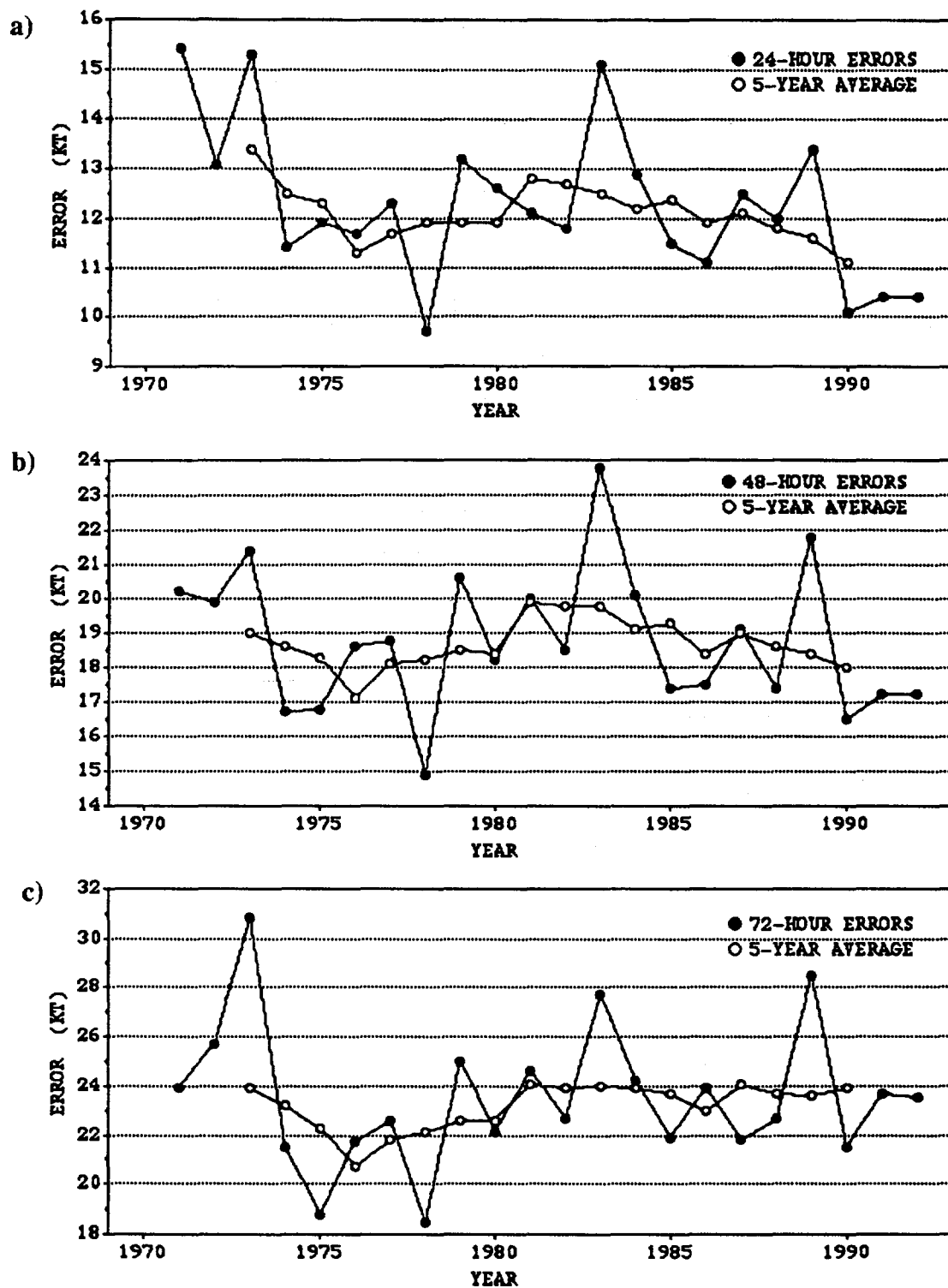


Figure 5-4. Mean intensity forecast errors (kt) and 5-year running mean for a) 24 hours, b) 48 hours and c) 72 hours for the western North Pacific Ocean in 1992.

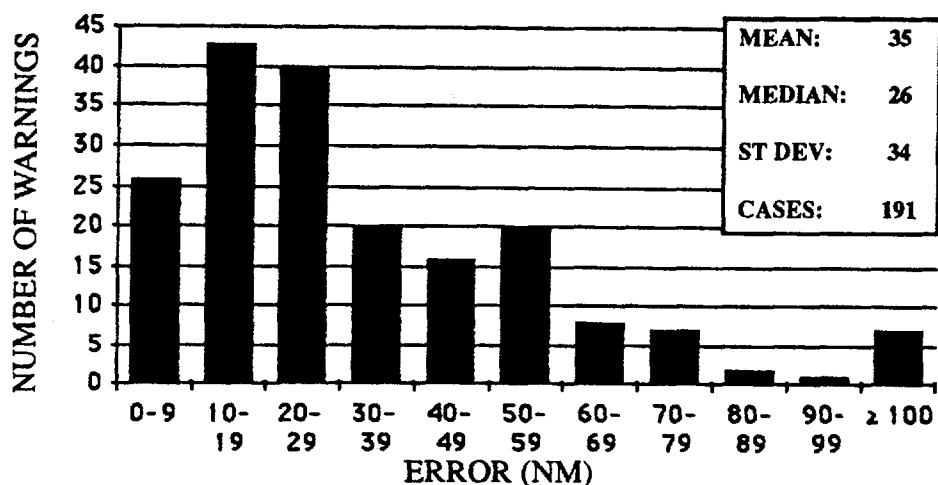


Figure 5-5a. Frequency distribution of initial warning position errors (10 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 306 nm, was on TC02A.

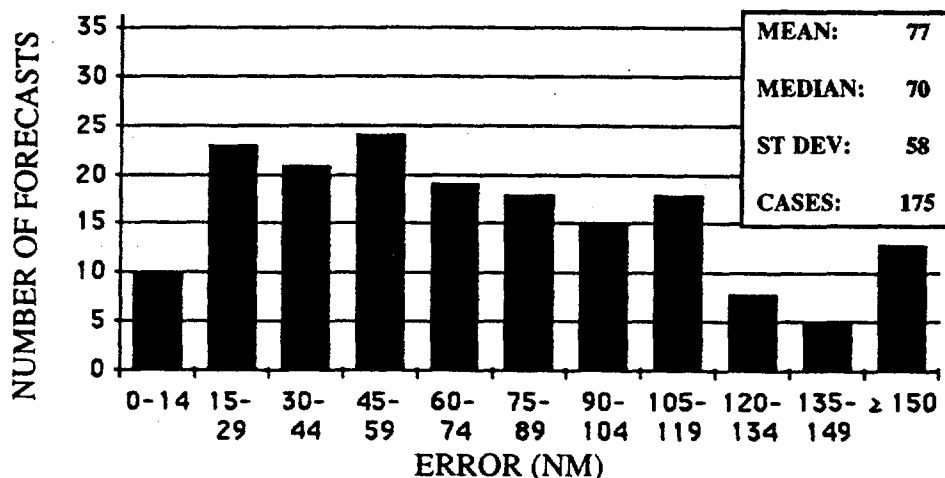


Figure 5-5b. Frequency distribution of 12-hour forecast errors (15 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 460 nm, was on TC02A.

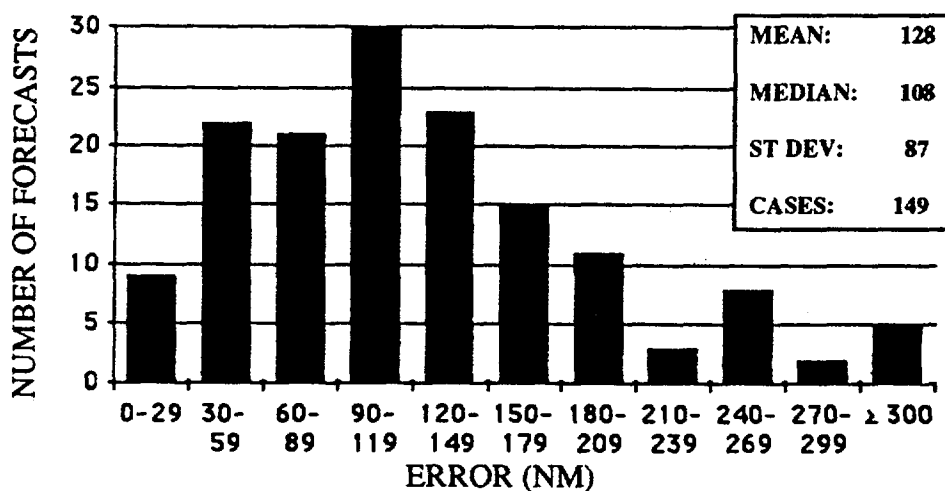


Figure 5-5c. Frequency distribution of 24-hour forecast errors (30 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 592 nm, was on TC02A.



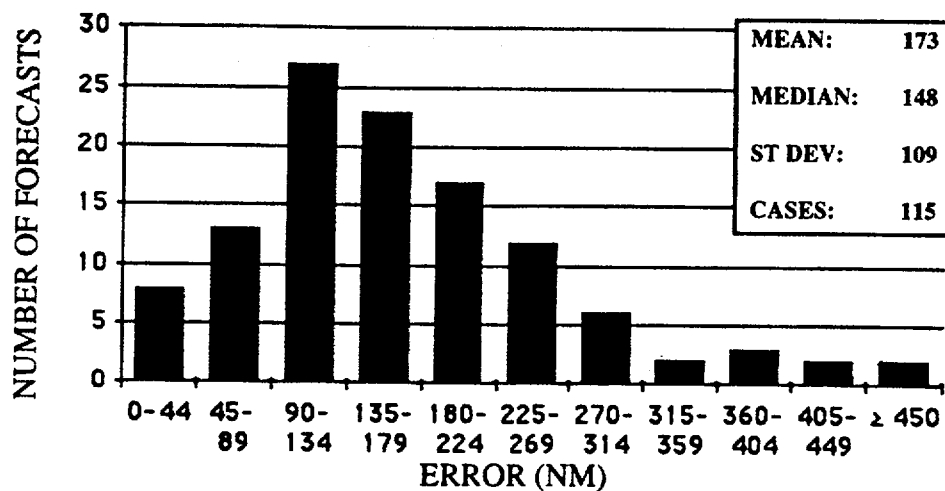


Figure 5-5d. Frequency distribution of 36-hour forecast errors (45 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 683 nm, was on TC02A.

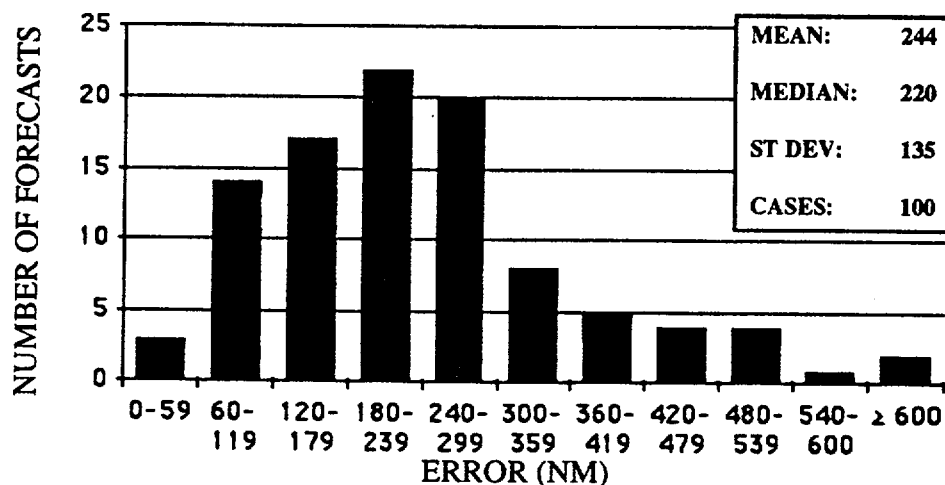


Figure 5-5e. Frequency distribution of 48-hour forecast errors (60 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 733 nm, was on TC02A.

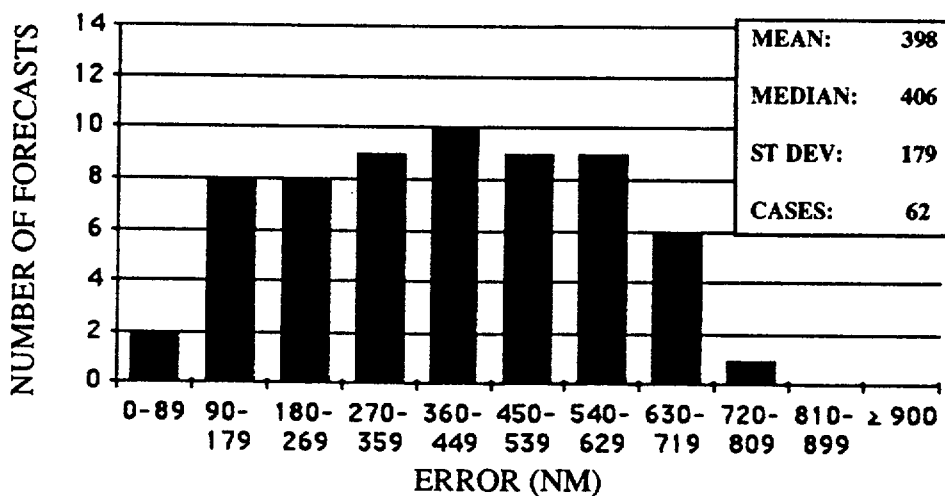


Figure 5-5f. Frequency distribution of 72-hour forecast errors (90 nm increments) for the North Indian Ocean in 1992. The largest error, 723 nm, was on TC02A.

TABLE 5-3. JTWC ANNUAL INITIAL POSITION AND FORECAST POSITION ERRORS (NM) 1978-1992 FOR THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN

| YEAR           | NUMBER OF INITIAL |          | 24-HOUR   |       |       |       | 48-HOUR   |       |       |       | 72-HOUR   |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                | WARNINGS          | POSITION | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS |
| 1978           | 32                | 43       | 28        | 133   | 90    | 82    | 19        | 202   | 147   | 109   | N/A       |       |       |       |
| 1979           | 93                | 46       | 63        | 151   | 96    | 95    | 17        | 278   | 193   | 161   | 17        | 437   | 251   | 320   |
| 1980           | 14                | 41       | 7         | 115   | 81    | 71    | 38        | 93    | 25    | 88    | 1         | 167   | 97    | 137   |
| 1981           | 41                | 28       | 29        | 109   | 76    | 63    | 2         | 176   | 120   | 109   | 5         | 197   | 150   | 111   |
| 1982           | 55                | 35       | 37        | 138   | 110   | 68    | 17        | 368   | 292   | 209   | 7         | 762   | 653   | 332   |
| 1983           | 18                | 38       | 7         | 117   | 90    | 50    | 18        | 153   | 137   | 53    | 0         |       |       |       |
| 1984           | 67                | 33       | 42        | 154   | 124   | 67    | 20        | 274   | 217   | 139   | 16        | 388   | 339   | 121   |
| 1985           | 53                | 31       | 30        | 122   | 102   | 53    | 8         | 242   | 119   | 194   | 0         |       |       |       |
| 1986           | 28                | 52       | 16        | 134   | 118   | 53    | 7         | 168   | 131   | 80    | 5         | 269   | 189   | 180   |
| 1987           | 83                | 42       | 54        | 144   | 91    | 100   | 25        | 205   | 125   | 140   | 21        | 305   | 219   | 188   |
| 1988           | 44                | 34       | 30        | 120   | 89    | 63    | 18        | 219   | 112   | 176   | 12        | 409   | 227   | 303   |
| 1989           | 44                | 19       | 33        | 88    | 62    | 50    | 17        | 146   | 94    | 86    | 12        | 216   | 164   | 111   |
| 1990           | 46                | 31       | 36        | 101   | 85    | 43    | 24        | 146   | 117   | 67    | 17        | 185   | 130   | 104   |
| 1991           | 56                | 38       | 43        | 129   | 107   | 54    | 27        | 235   | 200   | 89    | 14        | 450   | 356   | 178   |
| 1992           | 191               | 35       | 149       | 128   | 73    | 86    | 100       | 244   | 141   | 166   | 62        | 398   | 276   | 218   |
| AVERAGE 78-92: | 58                | 36       | 40        | 129   | 90    | 73    | 23        | 221   | 147   | 134   | 13        | 368   | 263   | 201   |

NOTE: Cross-track and along-track errors were adopted by the JTWC in 1986. Right-angle errors (used prior to 1986) were recomputed as cross-track and along-track errors after the fact to extend the data base. See Figure 5-1 for the definitions of cross-track and along-track errors.

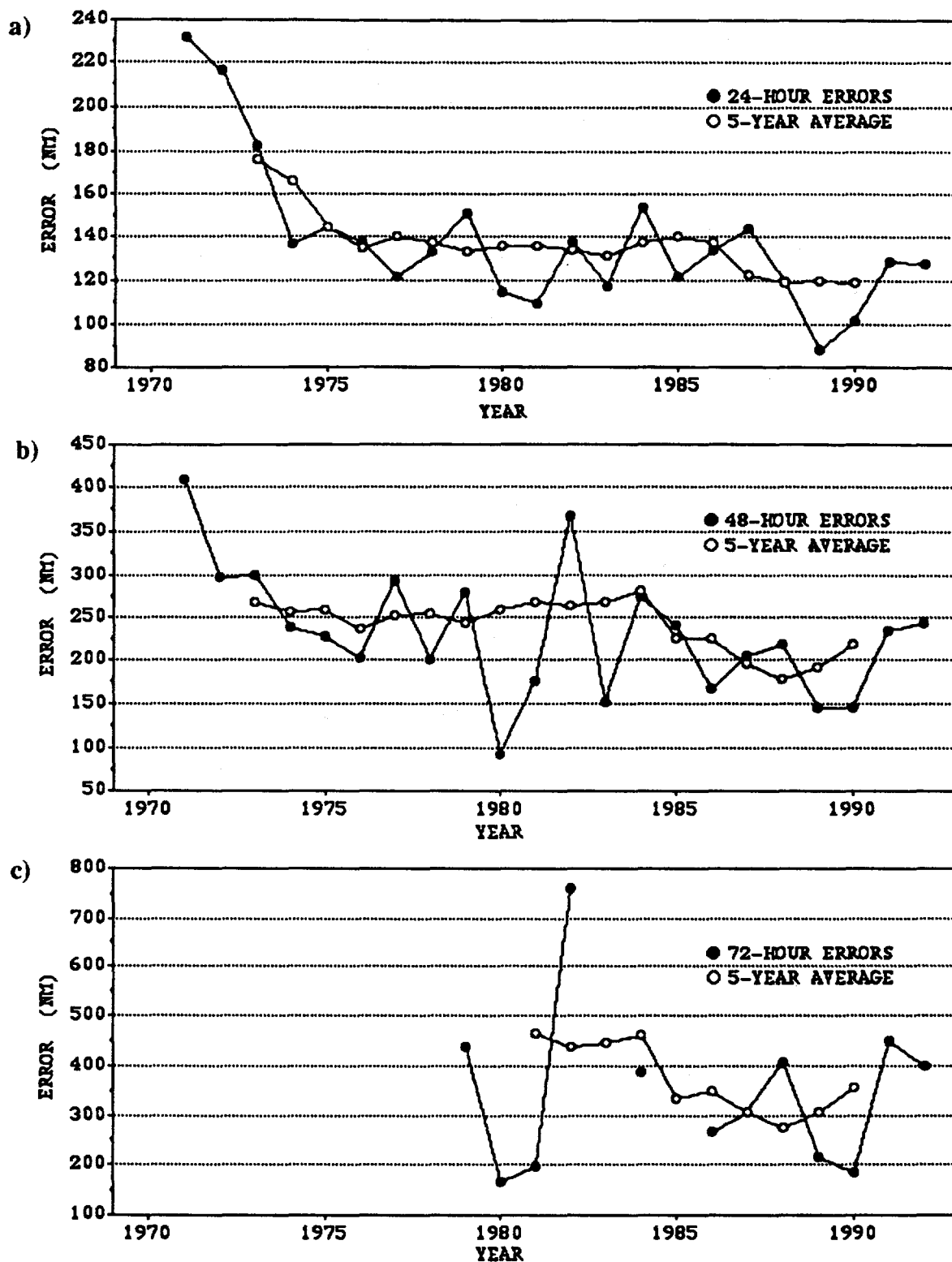


Figure 5-6. Mean track errors (nm) and 5-year running mean for a) 24 hours, b) 48 hours and c) 72 hours in the North Indian Ocean. Note: no 72-hour forecasts verified prior to 1979, in 1983 and 1985.

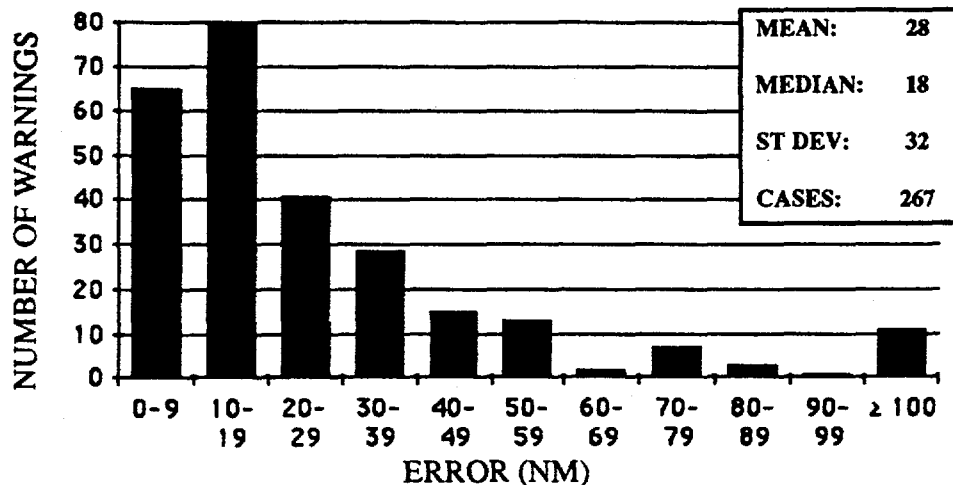


Figure 5-7a. Frequency distribution of initial warning position errors (10 nm increments) for the South Pacific and South Indian Oceans. The largest error, 297 nm, occurred on Tropical Cyclone 15P (Celesta).

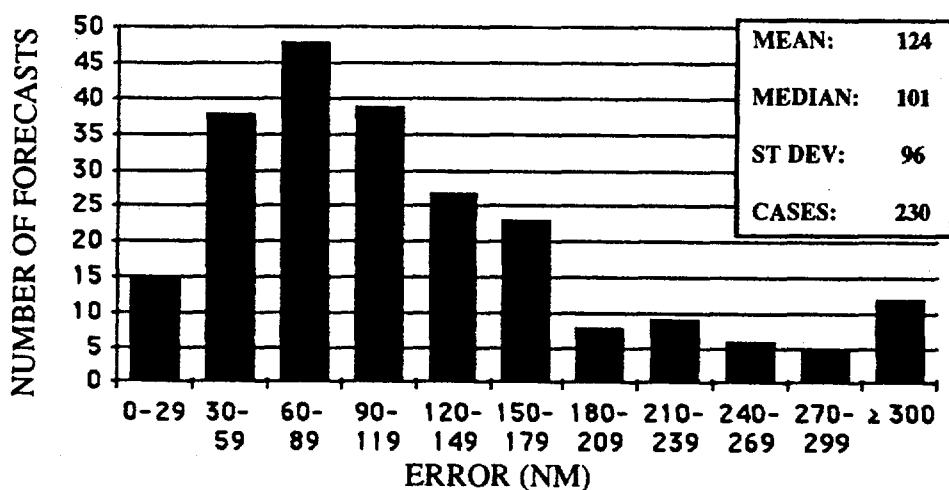


Figure 5-7b. Frequency distribution of 24-hour forecast errors (30 nm increments) for the South Pacific and South Indian Oceans. The largest error, 620 nm, occurred on Tropical Cyclone 15P (Celesta).

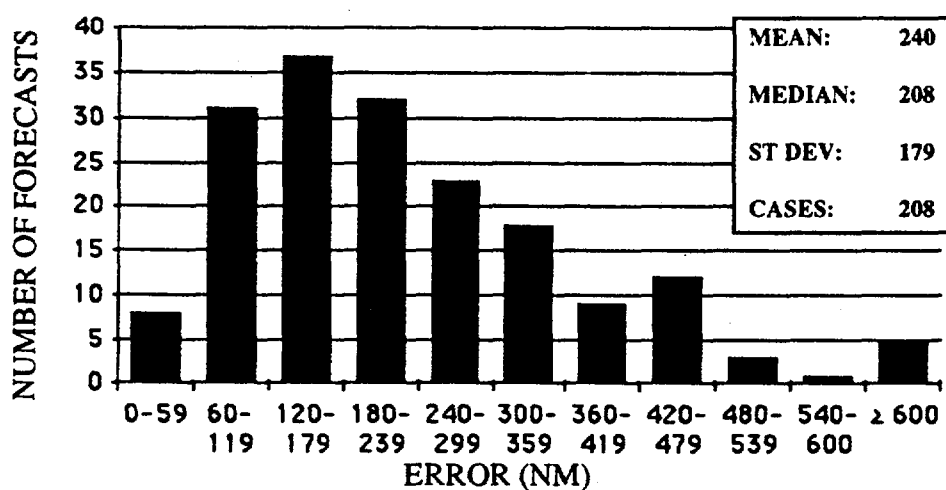


Figure 5-7c. Frequency distribution of 48-hour forecast errors (60 nm increments) for the South Pacific and South Indian Oceans. The largest error, 1281 nm, occurred on Tropical Cyclone 03P (Tia).

TABLE 5-4. JTWC ANNUAL INITIAL POSITION AND FORECAST POSITION ERRORS (NM) 1981-1992 FOR THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

| YEAR    | NUMBER OF INITIAL |          | 24-HOUR   |       |       |       | 48-HOUR   |       |       |       |
|---------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|         | WARNINGS          | POSITION | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS | FORECASTS | TRACK | ALONG | CROSS |
| 1981    | 226               | 48       | 190       | 165   | 103   | 106   | 140       | 315   | 204   | 201   |
| 1982    | 275               | 38       | 238       | 144   | 98    | 86    | 176       | 274   | 188   | 164   |
| 1983*   | 191               | 35       | 163       | 130   | 88    | 77    | 126       | 241   | 158   | 145   |
| 1984    | 301               | 36       | 252       | 133   | 90    | 79    | 191       | 231   | 159   | 134   |
| 1985*   | 306               | 36       | 257       | 134   | 92    | 79    | 193       | 236   | 169   | 132   |
| 1986*   | 279               | 40       | 227       | 129   | 86    | 77    | 171       | 262   | 169   | 164   |
| 1987*   | 189               | 46       | 138       | 145   | 94    | 90    | 101       | 280   | 153   | 138   |
| 1988*   | 204               | 34       | 99        | 146   | 98    | 83    | 48        | 290   | 246   | 144   |
| 1989*   | 287               | 31       | 242       | 124   | 84    | 73    | 186       | 240   | 166   | 136   |
| 1990*   | 272               | 27       | 228       | 143   | 105   | 74    | 177       | 263   | 178   | 152   |
| 1991*   | 264               | 24       | 231       | 115   | 75    | 69    | 185       | 220   | 152   | 129   |
| 1992*   | 267               | 28       | 230       | 124   | 91    | 64    | 208       | 240   | 177   | 129   |
| AVERAGE |                   |          |           |       |       |       |           |       |       |       |
| 81-92:  | 255               | 35       | 208       | 135   | 91    | 79    | 156       | 246   | 168   | 141   |

NOTE: Cross-track and along-track errors were adopted by the JTWC in 1986. Right-angle errors (used prior to 1986) were recomputed as cross-track and along-track errors after the fact to extend the data base.

See Figure 5-1 for the definitions of cross-track and along-track errors.

\* These statistics are for JTWC forecasts only. NWOC statistics are not included.

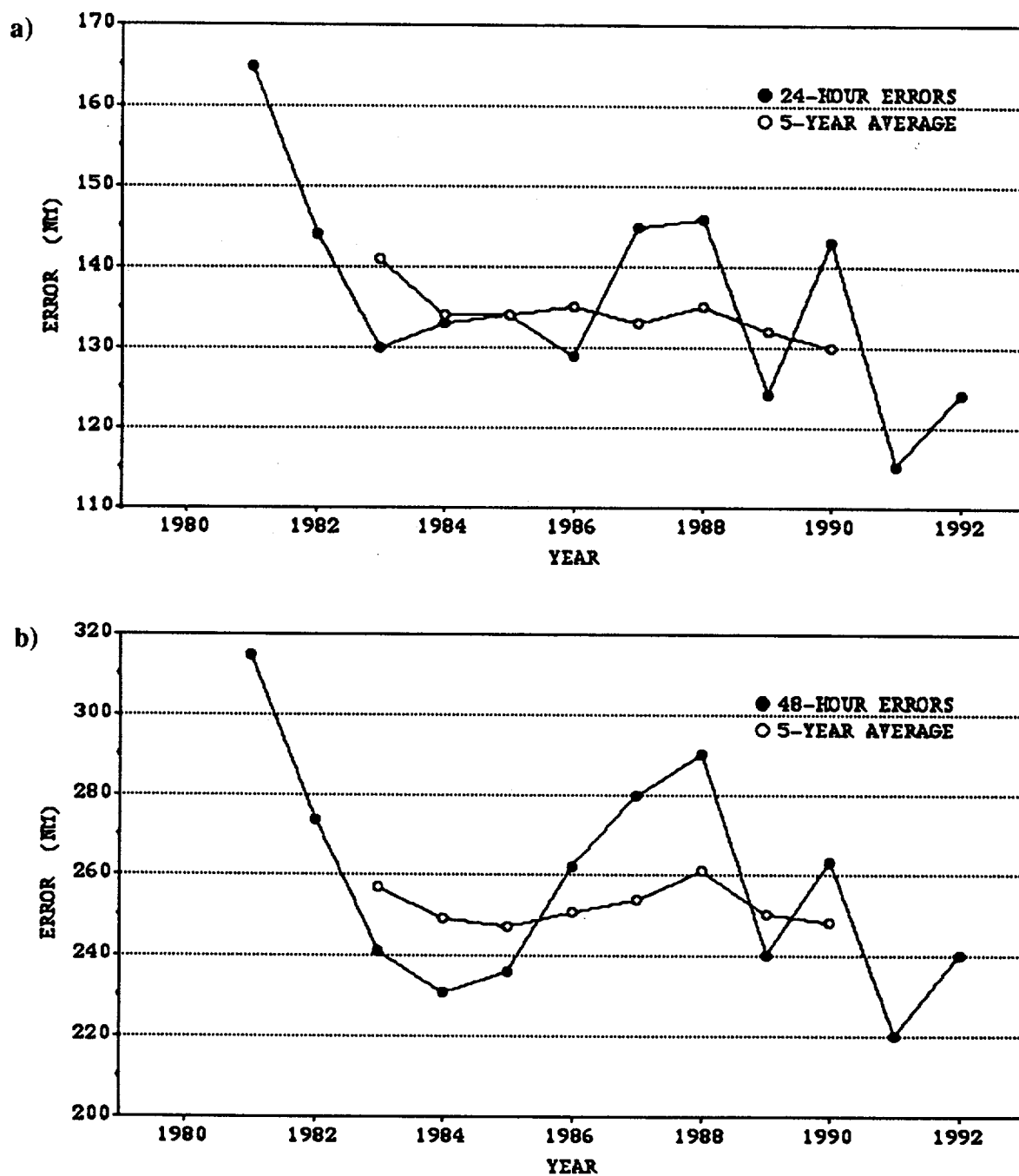


Figure 5-8. Mean track forecast errors (nm) and 5-year running mean for a) 24 hours and b) 48 hours for the South Pacific and South Indian Oceans.

## 5.2 COMPARISON OF OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES

JTWC uses a variety of objective techniques for guidance in the warning development process. Multiple techniques are required, because each technique has particular strengths and weaknesses which vary by basin, numerical model initialization, time of year, synoptic situation and forecast period. The accuracy of objective aid forecasts depends on both the specified position and the past motion of the tropical cyclone as determined by the working best track. JTWC initializes its objective techniques using the extrapolated warning position.

An initiative is presently underway to convert most of the objective techniques that currently run on mainframe computers at FNOC to desktop computer versions that run on ATCF workstations. These will eventually replace the FNOC-generated techniques. Three of these new aids have been received and are under evaluation.

Unless stated otherwise, all the objective techniques discussed below run in all basins covered by JTWC's AOR and provide forecast positions at 24-, 48-, and 72-hours unless the technique aborts prematurely during computations. The techniques can be divided into six general categories: extrapolation, climatology and analogs, statistical, dynamic, hybrids, and empirical or analytical.

**5.2.1 EXTRAPOLATION (XTRP)** — Past speed and direction are computed using the rhumb line distance between the current and 12-hour old positions of the tropical cyclone. Extrapolation from the current warning position is used to compute forecast positions.

## 5.2.2 CLIMATOLOGY and ANALOGS

**5.2.2.1 CLIMATOLOGY (CLIM)** — Employs time and location windows relative to the current position of the storm to determine which historical storms will be used to compute the forecast. The historical data base is 1945-1981 for the Northwest Pacific, and 1900 to 1990 for the rest of JTWC's AOR. A second climatology-based technique exists on JTWC's Macintosh®™ II computers. It employs data bases from 1945 to 1992 and from 1970 to 1992. The latter is referred to as the satellite-era data base. Objective intensity forecasts are available from these data bases. Scatter diagrams of expected tropical cyclone motion at bifurcation points are also available from these data bases.

**5.2.2.2 ANALOGS** — JTWC's analog and climatology techniques use the same historical data base, except that the analog approach imposes more restrictions on which storms will be used to compute the forecast positions. Analogs in all basins must satisfy time, location, speed, and direction windows, although the window definitions are distinctly different in the Northwest Pacific. In this basin, acceptable analogs are also ranked in terms of a similarity index that includes the above parameters and: storm size and size change, intensity and intensity change, and heights and locations of the 700-mb subtropical ridge and upstream midlatitude trough. In other basins, all acceptable analogs receive equal weighting and a persistence bias is explicitly added to the forecast. Inside the Northwest Pacific, analog weighting is varied using the similarity index, and a persistence bias is implicitly incorporated by rotating the analog tracks so that they initially match the 12-hr old motion of the current storm. In the Northwest Pacific, a forecast based on all acceptable analogs called TOTL, as well as a forecast based only on historical recurvers called RECR are available. Outside this basin, only the TOTL technique is available.

## 5.2.3 STATISTICAL

**5.2.3.1 CLIMATOLOGY AND PERSISTENCE (CLIP)** — A statistical regression technique that is based on climatology, current position and 12-hour and 24-hour past movement. This technique is used as a crude baseline against which to measure the forecast skill of other more sophisticated techniques. CLIP in the Northwest Pacific uses third-order regression equations and is based on the work of Xu and Neumann (1985). CLIP has been available outside this basin since mid-1990, with regression coefficients recently recomputed by FNOC based on the updated 1900-1989 data base.

**5.2.3.2 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL (CSUM)** — A statistical-dynamical technique based on the work of Matsumoto (1984). Predictor parameters include the current and 24-hr old position of the storm, heights from the current and 24-hr old NOGAPS 500-mb analyses, and heights from the 24-hr and 48-hr NOGAPS 500 mb prognoses. Height values from 200-mb fields are substituted for storms that have an intensity exceeding 90 knots and are located north of the subtropical ridge. Three distinct sets of regression equations are used depending on whether the storm's direction of motion falls into "below," "on," or "above" the subtropical ridge categories. During the development of the regression equation coefficients for CSUM, the so-called "perfect prog" approach was used, in which verifying analyses were substituted for the numerical prognoses that are used when CSUM is run operationally. Thus, CSUM was not "tuned" to any particular version of NOGAPS, and in fact, the performance of CSUM should presumably improve as new versions of NOGAPS improve. CSUM runs only in the Northwest Pacific, South China Sea, and North Indian Ocean basins.

**5.2.3.3 JTWC92 (JT92)** - JTWC92 is a statistical-dynamical model for the Northwest Pacific Ocean basin which forecasts tropical cyclone positions at 12-hour intervals to 72 hours. The model uses the deep-layer mean height field derived from the NOGAPS forecast fields. These deep-layer mean height fields are spectrally truncated to wave numbers 0 through 18 prior to use in JT92. Separate forecasts are made for each position. That is, the forecast 24 hour position is not a 12-hour forecast from the forecasted 12-hour position.

JT92 uses five internal sub-models which are blended and iterated to produce the final forecasts. The first sub-model is a statistical blend of climatology and persistence, known as CLIPER. The second sub-model is an analysis mode predictor, which only uses the "analysis" field. The third sub-model is the forecast mode predictor, which uses only the forecast fields. The fourth sub-model is a combination of 1 and 2 to produce a "first guess" of the 12-hourly forecast positions. The fifth sub-model uses the output of the "first guess" combined with 1, 2, and 3 to produce the forecasts. The iteration is accomplished by using the output of sub-model 5 as though it were the output from sub-model 4. The optimum number of iterations has been determined to be three.

When JT92 is used in the operational mode, all the NOGAPS fields are forecast fields. The 00Z and 12Z tropical forecasts are based upon the previous 12-hour old synoptic time NOGAPS forecasts. The 06Z and 18Z tropical forecasts are based on the previous 00Z and 12Z NOGAPS forecasts, respectively. Therefore, the second sub-model uses forecast fields and not analysis fields operationally.

## 5.2.4 DYNAMIC

**5.2.4.1 NOGAPS VORTEX TRACKING ROUTINE (NGPS)** — This objective technique follows the movement of the point of minimum height on the 1000 mb pressure surface ana-



lyzed and predicted by NOGAPS. A search in the expected vicinity of the storm is conducted every six hours through 72 hours, even if the tracking routine temporarily fails to discern a minimum height point. Explicit insertion of a tropical cyclone bogus via data provided over TYMNET by JTWC began in mid-1990, and should improve the ability of the NOGAPS technique to track the vortex.

**5.2.4.2 ONE-WAY INFLUENCE TROPICAL CYCLONE MODEL (OTCM)** — This technique is a coarse resolution (205 km grid), three layer, primitive equation model with a horizontal domain of 6400 x 4700 km. OTCM is initialized using 6-hour or 12-hour prognostic fields from the latest NOGAPS run, and the initial fields are smoothed and adjusted in the vicinity of the storm to induce a persistence bias into OTCM's forecast. A symmetric bogus vortex is then inserted, and the boundaries updated every 12 hours by NOGAPS fields as the integration proceeds. The bogus vortex is maintained against frictional dissipation by an analytical heating function. The forecast positions are based on the movement of the vortex in the lowest layer of the model (effectively 850-mb).

**5.2.4.3 FNOC BETA AND ADVECTION MODEL (FBAM)** — This model is an adaptation of the Beta and Advection model used by NMC. The forecast motion results from a calculation of environmental steering and an empirical correction for the observed vector difference between that steering and the 12-hour old storm motion. The steering is computed from the NOGAPS Deep Layer Mean (DLM) wind fields which are a weighted average of the wind fields computed for the 1000-mb to 100-mb levels. The difference between past storm motion and the DLM steering is treated as if the storm were a Rossby wave with an "effective radius" propagating in response to the horizontal gradient of the coriolis parameter, Beta. The forecast proceeds in one-hour steps, recomputing the effective

radius as Beta changes with storm latitude, and blending in a persistence bias for the first 12 hours.

## **5.2.5 HYBRIDS**

**5.2.5.1 HALF PERSISTENCE AND CLIMATOLOGY (HPAC)** — Forecast positions are generated by equally weighting the forecasts given by XTRP and CLIM.

**5.2.5.2 COMBINED CONFIDENCE WEIGHTED FORECASTS (CCWF)** — An optimal blend of objective techniques produced by the ATCF. The ATCF blends the selected techniques (currently OTCM, CSUM and HPAC) by using the inverse of the covariance matrices computed from historical and real-time cross-track and along-track errors as the weighting function.

## **5.2.6 EMPIRICAL OR ANALYTICAL**

**5.2.6.1 DVORAK** — An estimation of a tropical cyclone's current and 24-hour forecast intensity is made from the interpretation of satellite imagery (Dvorak, 1984). These intensity estimates are used with other intensity related data and trends to forecast short-term tropical cyclone intensity.

**5.2.6.2 MARTIN/HOLLAND** — The technique adapts an earlier work (Holland, 1980) and specifically addresses the need for realistic 30-, 50- and 100-kt (15-, 26- and 51-m/sec) wind radii around tropical cyclones. It solves equations for basic gradient wind relations within the tropical cyclone area, using input parameters obtained from enhanced infrared satellite imagery. The diagnosis also includes an asymmetric area of winds caused by tropical cyclone movement. Satellite-derived size and intensity parameters are also used to diagnose internal steering components of tropical cyclone motion known collectively as "beta-drift".

**5.2.6.3 TYPHOON ACCELERATION PREDICTION TECHNIQUE (TAPT)** — This technique (Weir, 1982) utilizes upper-tropospheric and surface wind fields to estimate acceleration associated with the tropical cyclone's interaction with the mid-latitude westerlies. It includes guidelines for the duration of acceleration, upper limits and probable path of the cyclone.

### **5.3 TESTING AND RESULTS**

A comparison of selected techniques is included in Table 5-5 for all Northwest Pacific tropical cyclones; Table 5-6 for all North Indian Ocean tropical cyclones and Table 5-7 for the Southern Hemisphere. In these tables, "x-axis" refers to techniques listed vertically. For example (Table 5-5) in the 861 cases available for a (homogeneous) comparison, the average forecast error at 24 hours was 137 nm (254 km) for CSUM and 139 nm (257 km) for FBAM. The difference of 2 nm (4 km) is shown in the lower right. (Differences are not always exact, due to computational round-off which occurs for each of the cases available for comparison).

TABLE 5-5

**1992 ERROR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES  
IN THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC (1 JAN 1992 - 31 DEC 1992)**

**24-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | <u>JTWC</u> |     | <u>NGPS</u> |     | <u>OTCM</u> |     | <u>CSUM</u> |     | <u>FBAM</u> |     | <u>CLIP</u> |     | <u>HPAC</u> |     |
|------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| JTWC | 841         | 107 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 107         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| NGPS | 427         | 99  | 428         | 146 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 146         | 47  | 146         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| OTCM | 795         | 105 | 421         | 145 | 881         | 129 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 126         | 21  | 117         | -28 | 129         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| CSUM | 793         | 107 | 419         | 144 | 846         | 127 | 872         | 146 |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 129         | 22  | 121         | -23 | 145         | 18  | 146         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| FBAM | 804         | 107 | 416         | 145 | 866         | 128 | 861         | 137 | 891         | 140 |             |     |             |     |
|      | 138         | 31  | 138         | -7  | 140         | 12  | 139         | 2   | 140         | 0   |             |     |             |     |
| CLIP | 814         | 107 | 422         | 146 | 876         | 128 | 868         | 137 | 888         | 140 | 905         | 140 |             |     |
|      | 134         | 27  | 121         | -25 | 139         | 11  | 133         | -4  | 140         | 0   | 140         | 0   |             |     |
| HPAC | 809         | 107 | 422         | 145 | 862         | 128 | 866         | 137 | 874         | 139 | 887         | 135 | 888         | 139 |
|      | 136         | 29  | 126         | -19 | 136         | 8   | 139         | 2   | 139         | 0   | 139         | 4   | 139         | 0   |

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number<br>of<br>Cases        | X-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error |
| Y-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error | Error<br>Difference<br>(Y-X) |

**48-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | <u>JTWC</u> |     | <u>NGPS</u> |     | <u>OTCM</u> |     | <u>CSUM</u> |     | <u>FBAM</u> |     | <u>CLIP</u> |     | <u>HPAC</u> |     |
|------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| JTWC | 685         | 205 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 205         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| NGPS | 360         | 201 | 364         | 238 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 237         | 36  | 238         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| OTCM | 641         | 202 | 356         | 233 | 756         | 229 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 226         | 24  | 219         | -14 | 229         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| CSUM | 651         | 204 | 355         | 234 | 723         | 228 | 755         | 252 |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 235         | 31  | 236         | 2   | 251         | 23  | 252         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| FBAM | 658         | 204 | 353         | 235 | 743         | 228 | 745         | 241 | 775         | 257 |             |     |             |     |
|      | 253         | 49  | 258         | 23  | 256         | 28  | 255         | 14  | 257         | 0   |             |     |             |     |
| CLIP | 665         | 204 | 358         | 237 | 751         | 229 | 751         | 242 | 772         | 257 | 788         | 277 |             |     |
|      | 261         | 57  | 246         | 9   | 276         | 47  | 262         | 20  | 277         | 20  | 277         | 0   |             |     |
| HPAC | 661         | 204 | 358         | 236 | 739         | 229 | 750         | 242 | 759         | 256 | 771         | 264 | 772         | 255 |
|      | 247         | 43  | 247         | 11  | 253         | 24  | 256         | 14  | 255         | -1  | 256         | -8  | 255         | 0   |

**72-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | <u>JTWC</u> |     | <u>NGPS</u> |     | <u>OTCM</u> |     | <u>CSUM</u> |     | <u>FBAM</u> |     | <u>CLIP</u> |     | <u>HPAC</u> |     |
|------|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| JTWC | 565         | 305 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 305         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| NGPS | 271         | 297 | 280         | 319 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 313         | 16  | 319         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| OTCM | 521         | 300 | 265         | 315 | 629         | 326 |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 326         | 26  | 314         | -1  | 326         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| CSUM | 544         | 302 | 273         | 313 | 601         | 327 | 645         | 340 |             |     |             |     |             |     |
|      | 330         | 28  | 338         | 25  | 332         | 5   | 340         | 0   |             |     |             |     |             |     |
| FBAM | 549         | 303 | 274         | 316 | 619         | 325 | 638         | 339 | 664         | 373 |             |     |             |     |
|      | 363         | 60  | 364         | 48  | 367         | 42  | 369         | 30  | 373         | 0   |             |     |             |     |
| CLIP | 553         | 303 | 276         | 319 | 626         | 326 | 642         | 340 | 661         | 374 | 675         | 402 |             |     |
|      | 386         | 83  | 374         | 55  | 392         | 66  | 385         | 45  | 400         | 26  | 402         | 0   |             |     |
| HPAC | 548         | 302 | 276         | 318 | 612         | 326 | 638         | 340 | 645         | 370 | 655         | 387 | 656         | 355 |
|      | 348         | 46  | 343         | 25  | 349         | 23  | 356         | 16  | 354         | -16 | 355         | -32 | 355         | 0   |

JTWC - JTWC Forecast

OTCM - One-Way Tropical Cyclone Model

FBAM - FNOC Beta and Advection Model

HPAC - Half Persistence and Climatology

NGPS - Navy-Operational Global-Atmospheric Prediction System

CSUM - Colorado State University Model

CLIP - Climatology/Persistence

TABLE 5-6

**1992 ERROR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES  
IN THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN (1 JAN 1992 - 31 DEC 1992)**

**24-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | JTWC    | OTCM    | FBAM    | CLIP    | HPAC    | TOTL    | CLIM    |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| JTWC | 147 128 |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|      | 128 0   |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| OTCM | 140 128 | 155 146 |         |         |         |         |         |
|      | 141 13  | 146 0   |         |         |         |         |         |
| FBAM | 141 129 | 155 146 | 156 144 |         |         |         |         |
|      | 144 15  | 145 -1  | 144 0   |         |         |         |         |
| CLIP | 141 129 | 155 146 | 156 144 | 156 146 |         |         |         |
|      | 141 12  | 146 0   | 146 2   | 146 0   |         |         |         |
| HPAC | 141 129 | 155 146 | 156 144 | 156 146 | 156 148 |         |         |
|      | 145 16  | 148 2   | 148 4   | 148 2   | 148 0   |         |         |
| TOTL | 126 133 | 135 147 | 136 146 | 136 146 | 136 152 | 136 153 |         |
|      | 152 19  | 153 6   | 153 7   | 153 7   | 153 1   | 153 0   |         |
| CLIM | 141 129 | 155 146 | 156 144 | 156 146 | 156 148 | 136 153 | 156 157 |
|      | 157 28  | 158 12  | 157 13  | 157 11  | 157 9   | 164 11  | 157 0   |

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number<br>of<br>Cases        | X-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error |
| Y-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error | Error<br>Difference<br>(Y-X) |

**48-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | JTWC   | OTCM    | FBAM    | CLIP    | HPAC    | TOTL    | CLIM    |
|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| JTWC | 99 245 |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|      | 245 0  |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| OTCM | 82 240 | 95 277  |         |         |         |         |         |
|      | 275 35 | 277 0   |         |         |         |         |         |
| FBAM | 95 247 | 95 277  | 111 256 |         |         |         |         |
|      | 267 20 | 259 -18 | 256 0   |         |         |         |         |
| CLIP | 95 247 | 95 277  | 111 256 | 111 259 |         |         |         |
|      | 268 21 | 254 -23 | 259 3   | 259 0   |         |         |         |
| HPAC | 94 247 | 94 279  | 110 257 | 110 260 | 110 262 |         |         |
|      | 271 24 | 258 -21 | 262 5   | 262 2   | 262 0   |         |         |
| TOTL | 76 254 | 69 287  | 85 258  | 85 253  | 85 256  | 85 276  |         |
|      | 284 30 | 267 -20 | 276 18  | 276 23  | 276 20  | 276 0   |         |
| CLIM | 94 247 | 94 279  | 110 257 | 110 260 | 110 262 | 85 276  | 110 262 |
|      | 280 33 | 265 -14 | 262 5   | 262 2   | 262 0   | 260 -16 | 262 0   |

**72-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | JTWC    | OTCM     | FBAM    | CLIP    | HPAC    | TOTL    | CLIM   |
|------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| JTWC | 61 402  |          |         |         |         |         |        |
|      | 402 0   |          |         |         |         |         |        |
| OTCM | 42 386  | 56 486   |         |         |         |         |        |
|      | 499 113 | 486 0    |         |         |         |         |        |
| FBAM | 58 406  | 56 486   | 75 408  |         |         |         |        |
|      | 423 17  | 394 -92  | 408 0   |         |         |         |        |
| CLIP | 58 406  | 56 486   | 75 408  | 75 404  |         |         |        |
|      | 423 17  | 387 -99  | 404 -4  | 404 0   |         |         |        |
| HPAC | 58 406  | 56 486   | 75 408  | 75 404  | 75 398  |         |        |
|      | 409 3   | 361 -125 | 398 -10 | 398 -6  | 398 0   |         |        |
| TOTL | 44 428  | 38 501   | 52 432  | 52 387  | 52 390  | 52 435  |        |
|      | 449 21  | 383 -118 | 435 3   | 435 48  | 435 45  | 435 0   |        |
| CLIM | 58 406  | 56 486   | 75 408  | 75 404  | 75 398  | 52 435  | 75 342 |
|      | 371 -35 | 317 -169 | 342 -66 | 342 -62 | 342 -56 | 353 -82 | 342 0  |

JTWC - JTWC Forecast  
 FBAM - FNOC Beta and Advection Model  
 HPAC - Half Persistence and Climatology  
 CLIM - Climatology

OTCM - One-Way Tropical Cyclone Model  
 CLIP - Climatology/Persistence  
 TOTL - Total Analog

TABLE 5-7

**1992 ERROR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES  
IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE (1 JUL 1991 - 30 JUN 1992)**

**24-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | <u>JTWC</u> | <u>OTCM</u> | <u>FBAM</u> | <u>CLIP</u> | <u>HPAC</u> | <u>TOTL</u> | <u>CLIM</u> | <u>XTRP</u> |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| JTWC | 234 125     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 125 0       |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| OTCM | 213 117     | 368 133     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 123 6       | 133 0       |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| FBAM | 210 123     | 350 134     | 357 181     |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 179 56      | 178 44      | 181 0       |             |             |             |             |             |
| CLIP | 219 124     | 365 132     | 355 180     | 373 169     |             |             |             |             |
|      | 166 42      | 167 35      | 171 -9      | 169 0       |             |             |             |             |
| HPAC | 219 124     | 365 132     | 355 180     | 373 169     | 373 150     |             |             |             |
|      | 144 20      | 148 16      | 152 -28     | 150 -19     | 150 0       |             |             |             |
| TOTL | 117 125     | 175 125     | 175 184     | 182 160     | 182 139     | 182 141     |             |             |
|      | 150 25      | 134 9       | 138 -46     | 141 -19     | 141 2       | 141 0       |             |             |
| CLIM | 219 124     | 367 132     | 356 180     | 373 169     | 373 150     | 182 141     | 375 197     |             |
|      | 187 63      | 195 63      | 198 18      | 196 27      | 196 46      | 179 38      | 197 0       |             |
| XTRP | 219 124     | 366 132     | 356 180     | 373 169     | 373 150     | 182 141     | 374 196     | 374 151     |
|      | 146 22      | 147 15      | 152 -28     | 151 -18     | 151 1       | 141 0       | 151 -45     | 151 0       |

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number<br>of<br>Cases        | X-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error |
| Y-Axis<br>Technique<br>Error | Error<br>Difference<br>(Y-X) |

**48-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)**

|      | <u>JTWC</u> | <u>OTCM</u> | <u>FBAM</u> | <u>CLIP</u> | <u>HPAC</u> | <u>TOTL</u> | <u>CLIM</u> | <u>XTRP</u> |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| JTWC | 184 242     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 242 0       |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| OTCM | 165 238     | 307 243     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 236 -2      | 243 0       |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| FBAM | 168 242     | 290 243     | 304 315     |             |             |             |             |             |
|      | 306 64      | 317 74      | 315 0       |             |             |             |             |             |
| CLIP | 175 240     | 305 243     | 303 316     | 320 283     |             |             |             |             |
|      | 285 45      | 280 37      | 288 -28     | 283 0       |             |             |             |             |
| HPAC | 175 240     | 305 243     | 303 316     | 320 283     | 320 256     |             |             |             |
|      | 246 6       | 254 11      | 260 -56     | 256 -27     | 256 0       |             |             |             |
| TOTL | 88 229      | 135 224     | 137 304     | 143 260     | 143 232     | 143 259     |             |             |
|      | 265 36      | 257 33      | 258 -46     | 259 -1      | 259 27      | 259 0       |             |             |
| CLIM | 175 240     | 307 243     | 304 315     | 320 283     | 320 256     | 143 259     | 322 335     |             |
|      | 322 82      | 328 85      | 339 24      | 333 50      | 333 77      | 301 42      | 335 0       |             |
| XTRP | 175 240     | 306 243     | 304 315     | 320 283     | 320 256     | 143 259     | 321 334     | 321 285     |
|      | 276 36      | 284 41      | 287 -28     | 285 2       | 285 29      | 264 5       | 285 -49     | 285 0       |

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| JTWC - JTWC Forecast           | OTCM - One-Way Tropical Cyclone Model   |
| CLIP - Climatology/Persistence | HPAC - Half Persistence and Climatology |
| TOTL - Total Analog            | CLIM - Climatology                      |
| XTRP - Extrapolation           |   |

**Intentionally left blank**